(i) Additional Bns have been sanctioned under expansion plan to reduce the gaps between the BOPs.

(ii) Patrolling/Nakas have been increase/intensified.

(iii) Border patrolling have been intensified by providing jeeps and motor cycles.

(iv) Mounted patrolling on horse, camels and tractors is being done.

(v) OP Towers have been erected.

(vi) Binoculars, goggles, twin telescopes, PNV binoculars and hand held search lights have been provided for enchanced vigilance on the border.

(vii) Border fencing and flood lighting has been done/ Being done.

(viii) Boats/Motor Boats have been provided for patrolling riverine/creek area.

(ix) Border roads/tracks are being constructed/ developed for vehicular patrolling.

(x) Coastal security has been/is being strengthened by Ministry of Defence.

(d) and (e) The issues regarding smuggling of arms, explosives and narcotics are being taken up at diplomatic level by Ministry of External Affairs and are discussed during various bilateral meetings convened by Ministry of Finance, Narcotics Control Bureau and Border Security Force.

[Translation]

Press Mud and Spent Wash

572. SHRI SOHAN BEER : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the 'press mud and spent wash' of the sugar mills can be used for producing gas with a little technical change which in turn can be used for the generation of electricity;

(b) if so, whether this technique has been used by any sugar mill; and

(c) if so, the results achieved there-from ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. As per the information available from the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy Sources (MNES) and the All India Distillers' Association (AIDA), the Press Mud and Spent Wash can be used for generating bio-gas which can be utilized for producing steam/electricity. According to MNES, they had sponsored R & D projects for setting up of pilot plants for producing bio-gas from Press Mud at M/s Ugar Sugar Works Ltd. Ugarkhurd, Distt. Belgaum (Karnataka) and M/s Vasantdada Shetkari Sahakari Sakhar Karkhana Ltd., Distt. Sangli (Maharashtra).

As regards use of Spent Wash, according to AIDA, a large number of distilleries are engaged in the production of bio-gas by anaerobic digestion of this distillery waste. The bio-gas in turn is used for domestic purposes and as a fuel in boilers for generation of steam/electricity.

[English]

Administrative Set-up of BSF in West Bengal

573. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to streamline the present administrative set-up of the Border Security Force on the Indo-Bangladesh border in West Bengal to prevent large-scale smuggling of different types of Indian goods across the border;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) Border Security Force has been entrusted with the responsibility of Indo-Bangladesh Border Management including West Bengal. The performance of the Force is reviewed from time to time and necessary measures are taken to streamline its functioning. These measures include augmentation of man power, setting up of border out-posts, intensive patrolling, night vigil and Nakas etc

Kerala State Scheduled Tribes Land Amendment Bill, 1996

574. SHRI P.C. CHACKO : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to New-item captioned "VHP appeals to President to return Kerala Bill" appearing in the "Hindu", dated February 1, 1997;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the present position in regard to Kerala State Scheduled Tribes Land Amendment Bill, 1996 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The Governor of Kerala has reserved the Kerala

Scheduled Tribes (Restriction on Transfer of Lands and Restoration of Alienated Lands) Amendment Bill, 1996 for the consideration and assent of the President. The Bill has been examined in consultation with concerned Ministries, who have sought clarifications on the Bill from the Government of Kerala. The State Government have furnished their clarifications only in the last week. Presently, the Kerala Scheduled Tribes (Restriction on transfer of Lands and Restoration of Alienated Lands) Amendment Bill, 1996, is being examined by the concerned central Ministries in the light of clarifications furnished by the State Government of Kerala.

[Translation]

Incidents of Extremists

575. SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of incidents of terrorist and caste conflicts occured in Assam, Andhra Pradesh and in the North-Eastern states during the last one year;

(b) the number of persons forced to migrate from the states;

(c) the number of police stations blown up by the extremists, State-wise;

(d) the number of civilian/security forces personnel killed in those incidents, State-wise;

(e) the details of compensation/assistance provided to the dependants of the officials killed in the said incidents; and

(f) the effective steps taken by the Government to control the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (f) The information is being collected.

[English]

Functioning of FCI

576. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to revamp the functioning of the Food Corporation of India with a view to make the Public Distribution System in the country more effective and efficient;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this direction ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) to (c) With a view to making the functioning, including PDS of Food Corporation of India more effective and efficient, FCI has recently set up 8 more sub-regional offices. For the present there is no further proposal under consideration of Government to revamp the functioning of FCI.

Task Force for Project Tiger

577. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up a special task force for the Project Tiger in the country;

(b) if so, the main objectives of the constitution of such task force;

(c) the extent to which the Central Government propose to bear the expenditure of such task force; and

(d) the details of the programme in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has proposed to set up a 'Special Strike Force' during IX Plan in the tiger reserve areas in order to provide necessary man-power and equipment to combat the problem of tiger poaching and other illegal activities in these areas.

(c) and (d) The Central Government proposes to bear 100% expenditure on salaries and allowances of the personnel of this force for first five years; thereafter the expenditure would be shared on 50 : 50 basis between the Central and State Governments concerned. The expenditure on equipment will entirely be borne by the Central Government.

Floods/Cyclone in Andhra Pradesh

578. SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI :
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY :
SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received full report in regard to the damage caused by floods/cyclone in Andhra Pradesh during October-November 1996;

(b) if so, the details of damages and the assistance